■03 KISARAGI ATTENTION

GAAAAAA (WHIRRRR)

AHHH...I CAN HEAR THE SHUTTERS OPENING...

I GUESS ENE HACKED INTO THE CONTROL ROOM FOR ME.

PIKU (TWITCH)

BUT I CAN'T...I...

...I'M LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS.....

03 >> KISARAGI ATTENTION

MAN, THAT'S ROUGH.

YEAH?

OHHH ...?

OH REALLY? WOW...

CHUN

CHUN (TWEET)

HELP ME GET SOME BREAK-FAST GOING, OKAY?

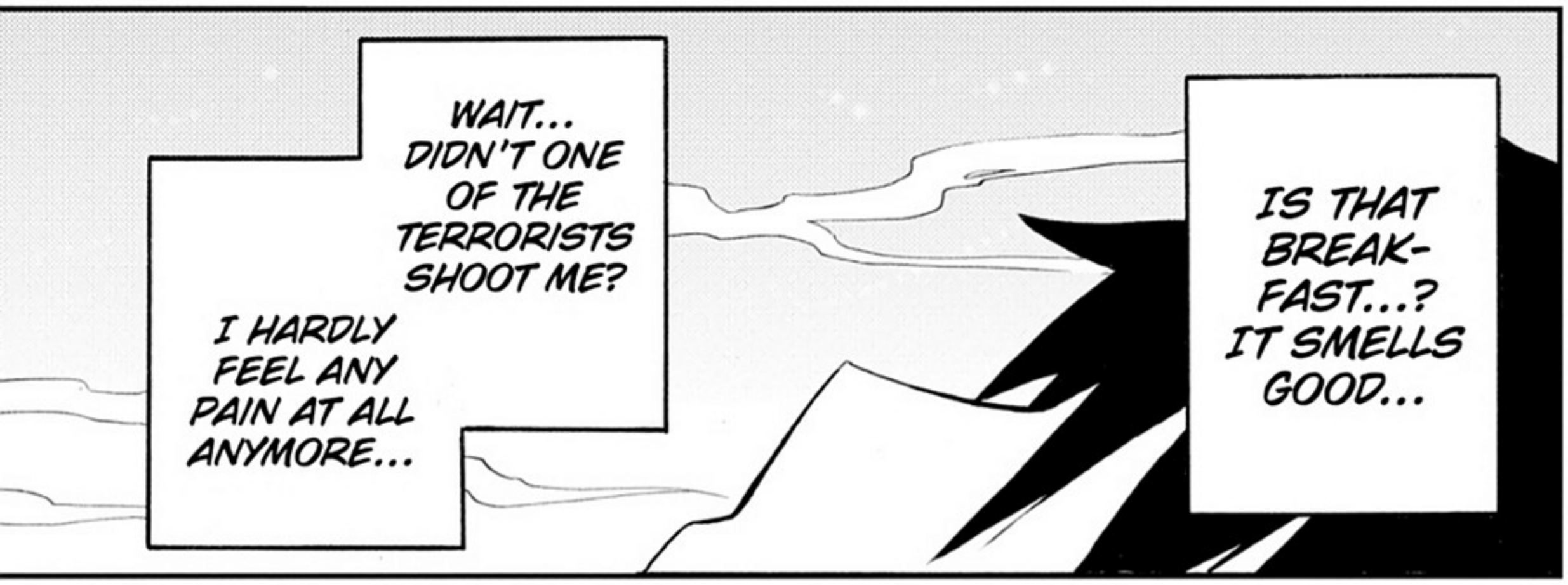
SETO!

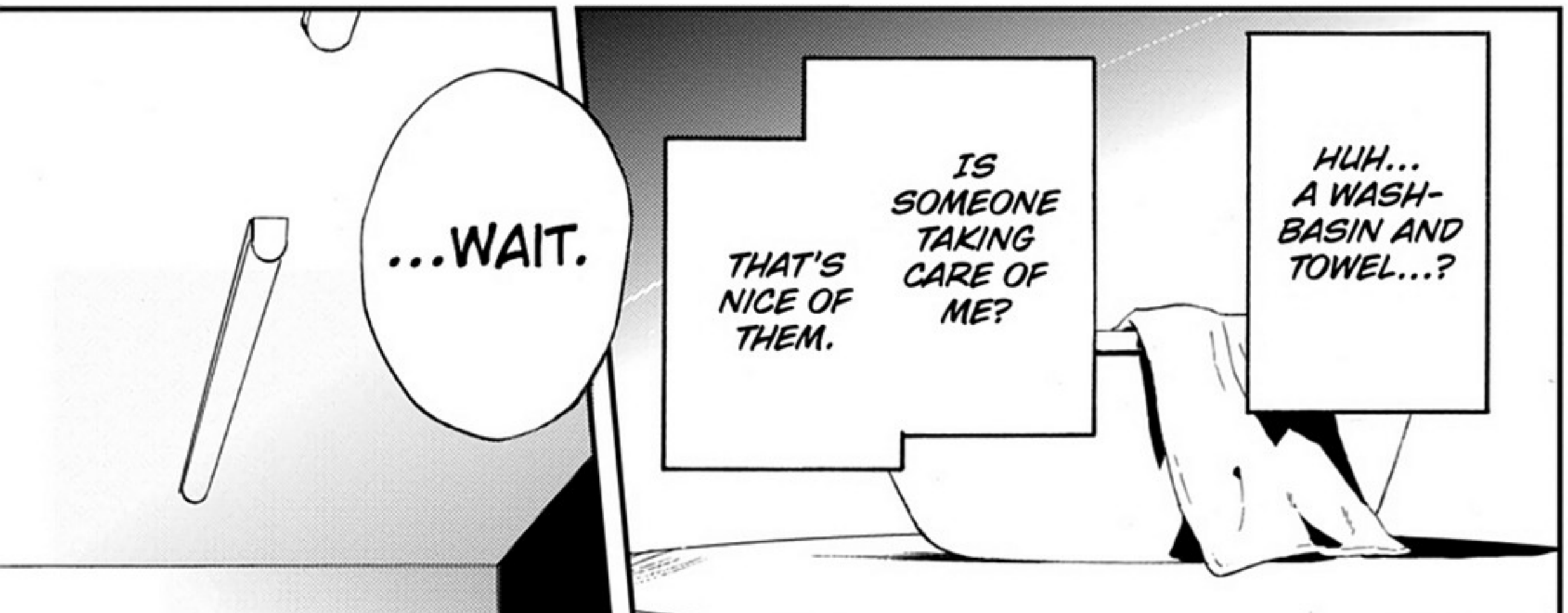
CAN DO!

PASHI (SLAP)

PIKU (TWITCH)

HOW IS KISARAGI'S BROTHER DOING?
KACHA
MMM... MARIE-CHAN'S TAKING CARE OF HIM, BUT I DON'T THINK HE'S AWAKE YET...
KACHA (CLATTER)


WAIT... DIDN'T ONE OF THE TERRORISTS SHOOT ME?
I HARDLY FEEL ANY PAIN AT ALL ANYMORE...
IS THAT BREAK-FAST...? IT SMELLS GOOD...


...WAIT.
THAT'S NICE OF THEM.
IS SOMEONE TAKING CARE OF ME?
HUH... A WASH-BASIN AND TOWEL...?

GABAA (LURCH)

WHERE !!

WHERE THE HELL AM I!!!?

BA (BOLT)

BIKU (SHIVER)

BIKU

GATAN (CRASH)

YAAH!!!

WHOA ...!

WAS THAT GIRL TAKING CARE OF ME...?

MASTER! YOU'RE AWAKE!!!

BIKU (JUMP)

ORO

HEY, UH...

UH...?

ORO (FLOUNDER)

AH GEEZ, I MUST HAVE STARTLED HER WHEN I SHOUTED ...

WAS THAT EN—

GACHA (KACHAK)

GRAY SHIRT: ISOLATION

...

!?

HUH?

AND...
AND THAT CAT-EYED DUDE I WAS NEXT TO...!?

!?
THAT'S THE GUY I BUMPED INTO AT THE STORE...WAIT, NO—SHE'S A GIRL!?

AND THE GIRL HOLDING MY PHONE...

SHIRT: OOEDO

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE BETTER, MASTER!!

NOW WE CAN ALL GO TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK TOGETHER!

PIKAN (FLASH)

大江戸

鎖

MY SISTER, MOMO!!!

KUA (GLARE)

WHA...?

I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU!

YOU ARE SO STUPID! WHY'D YOU GO AND DO A THING LIKE THAT!?

GAYA

YOU HEAR THAT, MARIE? THE AMUSE-MENT PARK!!

GAYA

HEY, HOLD UP, ARE WE HITTING AN AMUSEMENT PARK? SWEET!

GAYA

WELL... I GUESS SO, BUT...

MY MASTER DID RESCUE ALL OF US, THOUGH!!

HYOI (FWP)

W-WE'RE GOING OUT AGAIN ...?

GAYA (CHATTER)

NO, I MEAN... I'M KINDA LOST HERE...

WHO ARE YOU GUYS...?

UH...

DON'T WORRY, THOUGH. THAT SHOT ONLY GRAZED YOU.

SORRY, WE'RE ALL TALKING AT ONCE.

HUH?

WHAT?

NOT QUITE, KISA-RAGI.

OH, SORRY, ONII-CHAN!

THIS IS THE MEKA-MEKA-DAN—

OUR GANG'S CALLED...

...THE MEKA-KUSHI-DAN!

AWW, C'MON, IT'S COOL!

YEAH, THIS IDIOT CAME UP WITH THE NAME.

UH...

THE MEKA-KUSHI... DAN...?

NIKO (GRIN)

HEE HEE HEE ...

AND I'M A GANG MEMBER TOO!

ニィ

A LOT'S GONE ON TODAY, ONII-CHAN!

MIIIN (BUZZZ)

MIN

MIN

MIN

MIN

AUGUST 14, JUST PAST 9 A.M.—

TA (DASH)

商店街

SIGN: SHOPS

GOOD MORNING, MOMO-CHAN!

HAAH

HAAH. HAAH.

YOUR CD'S OUT TODAY, RIGHT?

HEADED TO SCHOOL? HAVE FUN!

BUT YOU'RE A LOT CUTER IN PERSON!

I SAW YOU ON TV EARLIER!

AH CRAP ...

I TOOK THE WAY AROUND, BUT THERE'S STILL SO MANY PEOPLE ...

TA (TMP) TA TA

HA-HA... THANKS VERY MUCH!

NIKO (SMILE)

THAT'S ANOTHER TARDY, MOMO KISARAGI.

I'M LATE AGAIN...!

ZEEEE (WHEEZE)

IT'S MY BIOLOGY I TEST...THE ONE FROM LAST WEEK...

ZEEEE

HMM...

PERA (SWIP)

...BUT DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?

AND NOT TO PILE ON...

UM... HEH-HEH. I'M NOT SURE I DO, ACTUALLY—

AH GOOD. I'M GLAD YOU COMPREHEND THAT MUCH.

NOW, DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE NUMBER WRITTEN BY YOUR NAME MEANS?

GOCHIN (BONK)

YEOW !!?

PI (TING)

Momo Kisaragi

2

HAAAH..

LOOK, I'M GLAD YOU AREN'T USING YOUR POP IDOL STATUS AS AN EXCUSE...

BUT AFTER TWO WEEKS OF REMEDIAL COURSES, YOU GET A TWO?

WILL YOU NEED A HUNDRED WEEKS TO GET A PERFECT SCORE?

GU (FLINCH)

BAAAN (BADOOM)

LOOK AT THIS!!

AND YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE YOU STUDIED !!?

QUESTION: "NAME ONE ANIMAL THAT IS A MAMMAL." YOUR ANSWER: "CRAB OR SALMON" ...

ARE YOU KIDDING!? YOU CALL THIS "STUDY-ING"!?

BUT... BUT I STUDIED AND EVERY-THING...

SHUN (GLOOM)

NON-REALISTIC IMAGERY TO AVOID EXCESSIVE GORE.

BEAR

DEER

WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO GET ALL FANCY WITH YOUR TEST ANSWERS...?

IF YOU PUT A DEER AND A BEAR TOGETHER, THE DEER'S GONNA GET EATEN!!

PISHAAAA (SLASHHH)

WHA ...?

E-EATEN ...!!?

...WHY ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT YOUR MOTHER ON A BIO TEST!?

YES! THEM! THAT'S RIGHT!!

BISHIII (JAB)

MY MOM'S FROM HOKKAIDO, SO...I DID CONSIDER "DEER OR BEAR" TOO...

DO

BEAR

AND WHY ARE YOU GIVING ME PAIRS!? IT SAYS "NAME ONE"!

HUH!? WHY NOT? THEY'D BE TOO LONELY BY THEMSELVES!

DEER

DO (RMBL)

I'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO RETAKE IT NEXT WEEK.

SO...

SHUSHUSHUN

I'M SORRY...

I...

...I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...

HM...?

DIDN'T YOU SEE THE REMEDIAL COURSE SCHEDULE ...?

I'LL GO TO CLASS, OKAY? IT'S STILL SECOND PERIOD, RIGHT!?

OH, AND SORRY I'M LATE!!

Y-YES... WAIT, NO!

YOU HAVE A TV DRAMA SHOOT TODAY TOO, RIGHT?

...TRY NOT TO STRESS YOURSELF OUT ABOUT IT, OKAY? I'M SURE YOU'RE STILL GETTING USED TO THINGS AROUND HERE...

WHAA!?

IT'S AUGUST 14TH. CLASSES ENDED AFTER FIRST PERIOD FOR THE OBON HOLIDAY.

NO WAY...!!

MUST BE TOUGH, BEING A POP IDOL AND NOT NORMAL.

GASP!

I'M GUESSING YOU RAN INTO A LOT OF GAWKERS, HUH?

SORRY TO MAKE YOU GET ALL SWEATY RUNNING HERE.

Y-YES, SIR...!

CLASS STARTS UP THREE DAYS FROM NOW, GOT IT? DON'T BE LATE NEXT TIME!

WELL, HANG IN THERE, OKAY?

IF ONLY...

...I HADN'T RUN INTO ALL THOSE PEOPLE...

Y-YEAH...

GYU (CLENCH)

I'LL BE OFF, THEN...

PEKO (BOW)

HAAH...

KASA (CRINKLE)

omo Kisaragi

2

FURA (WOBBLE)

I'M BEAT...

I NEED SOME-THING TO DRINK...

...IT ALWAYS JUST BLOWS UP IN MY FACE?

WHY IS IT NO MATTER WHAT I DO...

AH HA HA!

HEE HEE!

OH...

BIKU (FLINCH)

JI (STARE)

プシャ
PUSHA (PSHHT)

THERE'S SOME-THING ABOUT ME...

I SEEM TO ATTRACT PEOPLE'S **EYES.**

WHEW... GUESS IT WAS NOTHING.

NOT AGAIN...

YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE...?

ゴクリ
GOKYU (GLUG)

ゴキュ
ゴキュッ
GOKYU
GOKYU

MY MOTHER WAS HAVING SOME PROBLEMS WITH WORK, SO I FIGURED I'D DO MY PART TO KEEP THE LIGHTS ON.

THIS TALENT SCOUT NOTICED ME ON THE STREET.

FOR YEARS, I COULD FEEL THE EYES ZEROING IN ON ME.

PWAH!

THERE'S NO REASON FOR IT. I HAVE NO SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS TO SPEAK OF.

BUT EVERYBODY'S EYES GREW MORE AND MORE FIXATED ON ME.

I HAD NO PARTICULAR INTEREST IN TELEVISION OR MUSIC...

...OR WITH TALKING TO PEOPLE IN GENERAL, REALLY.

EVER SINCE, THE NUMBER OF CALLS TO MY AGENCY HAS GROWN TO A FRIGHTENING LEVEL.

BUT JUST STEPPING ONSTAGE WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE CROWDS GO WILD...

WAAAAAA (CLAMOR)

UGH...MY MANAGER ISN'T COMING TILL ONE...

IT'S SO HOT... I THINK I'LL GO HOME BEFORE THE DRAMA SHOOT.

GATA (CLATTER)

SU (SHP)

I WISH I COULD MAKE FRIENDS TOO... LIKE THOSE GIRLS.

I WISH I COULD JUST TALK NORMALLY WITH PEOPLE...

THAT'S WHERE THOSE GIRLS WERE SITTING...

THEY LEFT A PAPER ON THE TABLE.

HMM?

WHA...

...WHAT IS THIS...!?

490 YEN

LIMITED TIME ONLY!

LIL' SOCKEYE STRAP!

WITH SCRATCH 'N' SNIFF ACTION!

ALL SLIPPERS, VARIOUS STYLES

MADE WITH 100% POLYESTER

780 YEN

ACCESS

!

IT'S SO CUTE!!!

ZAPPAAAAN (SPLOOOSH)

OH...

THE SHOP'S RIGHT BY THE STATION...

IT'S GONNA BE CROWDED... I DUNNO...

KYORO

KYORO (GLANCE)

LIMITED TIME ONLY

"LIMITED TIME ONLY"...!!!

I HAVE TO GO GET ONE...AND IT'S GOTTA BE TODAY...!!!

...ALL RIGHT.

SU (SNEAK)

WC

SHIRT: A-UN

NIKO (GRIN)

I'LL DRESS AS MODESTLY AS POSSIBLE ...

...HIDE MY FACE, AND NOBODY WILL NOTICE...

I CAN BE NORMAL LIKE THIS!

TA (DASH)

Momo Kisaragi's first single launches today!!

Let her other-worldly voice pierce your heart!

F1 FOREV

NO...

OH NO...

PURU

PURU

I HAD A COLD THAT DAY...THEY USED MY STUFFED-UP, NASALLY SINGING AS IS!

PURU (TRMBL)

I'M SO EMBAR-RASSED ...

I WISH I COULD HIDE...

SIGN: ATM

I CAN HIDE MY FACE UNDER MY HOODIE.

NO WAY ANYONE WILL NOTICE.

WELL, AT LEAST THESE PLAIN CLOTHES SEEM TO BE DOING THE TRICK...

AGH!

STUPID WIND...

BUWA (FWOOSH)

ACK!

BA (GAPE)

UH...

BA

WHY'S IT ALWAYS GOTTA END UP LIKE THIS...?

COME ON, NOW...

SO CUTE!

DUDE, IT'S REALLY HER!

ZAWA

MOMO-CHAN!!!

ZAWA (CHATTER)

IT'S MOMO-CHAN!

WOW, MOMO-CHAN'S HERE!

ZAWA

ZAWA

I MEAN, WHY...?

THIS IS TOTALLY NUTS, RIGHT?

IT'S NOT NORMAL.

ZAWA

...GRAVITATE TOWARD ME...!??

WHY DO PEOPLE ALWAYS...

I MEAN, MAYBE I WAS KIDDING MYSELF, THINKING I COULD HIT THAT SHOP INCOGNITO...

...BUT...

DID I DO SOME-THING WRONG OR WHAT!?

POP STAR SMILE

...TO LIVE A LITTLE MORE LIKE A NORMAL GIRL... THAT'S ALL I WANT!

...BUT STILL, I WANTED TO AT LEAST TRY...

DA (DASH)

AH!

KUSHA (CRUMPLE)

WHAT AM I GONNA DO?

TA (ZOOM)

DON

DON (SHOVE)

I WISH I HADN'T BEEN BORN THIS WAY!

ｴﾄﾚﾄ.

ｴﾄﾚﾄ.

ZA
(SKSH

I DON'T GET ANY OF THIS...

I WISH I COULD JUST DISAPPEAR ...!!

PI PI PI PI PI PI PI PI PI PI

IT'S MY MANAGER...

HAAGH... I CAN'T RUN ANYMORE ...

PI (BEEP) PI PI PI PI PI PI

PI

Hello!? Momo-chan!? Where are you right now!!?

Do you have any concept of who you are!?

BIKU (FLINCH)

The police called the agency just now...the whole place is in an uproar!

I-I DON'T KNOW ...

LISTEN, I...UH...

Geez, Kisaragi... Why did you have to pull something like this now, of all times...?

UM, I... I'M SORRY THAT I...

You should have known that this would happen!

Listen! You aren't a "normal" girl, all right?

...ORMAL ...?

THEY ALL...

THEY WERE LOOKING AT ME LIKE I WAS SOME FREAK...!!

I...

...I CAN'T TAKE THIS...!!!

What?

PORO (DRIP)

AM... AM I...!!

AM I REALLY THAT ABNORMAL ...!!?

I...!! I'M NOT GOING BACK!!!!

SO...!!!

SO THANKS FOR EVERY-THING, OKAY !!!?

HUFF. HFF.

PUTSUN (CLICK)

What...? Wait! Wait a—

I...

I'M SUCH AN IDIOT...

ZURU (SLIDE)

ポロ

BORO (DRIP)

ポロ

HFF.

BORO

HUFF. HFF..

ポロ

BORO

I UPSET A LOT OF PEOPLE.

I BETRAYED EVERY-BODY'S FAITH IN ME.

I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I JUST DID.

I KNOW ALL THAT, BUT I STILL—

WHAT A DISASTER ...

I JUST CAN'T ANYMORE ...

HAAH...

!?

WAIT...

WHERE DID SHE EVEN COME FROM...?

HEY.

LEGS...!?

PACHIKURI (BLINK)

UH...

BEFORE I KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING...

...I WAS ENTANGLED IN EVENTS EVEN MORE BIZARRE THAN BEFORE.

AAAA-AAAA-AAH!??

YOU ALL RIGHT?